

STAFFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Public Health Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1968

JUNE, 1969

ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Newport Road,
Stafford.
Tel. Stafford 52131

To the Chairman and Members of
the Stafford Rural District Council:

June, 1969

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report for the Year 1968. The Report has been compiled on the general lines indicated by the Department of Health and Social Security (Circular 1/69).

Under the Secretary of State for Social Services Order, 1968, which came into operation on 1st November, 1968, the Ministry of Health was dissolved and all its functions, along with those of the Ministry of Social Security, were transferred to the new Department of Health and Social Security. The new department is headed by the Secretary of State for Social Services, who, in addition to his responsibility for the new combined department, will continue to co-ordinate the whole range of Social Services. Under the Secretary of State there are two Ministers of State, one of whom will have responsibilities in the field previously covered by the Minister of Health. The other will have responsibilities in the field previously covered by the Minister of Social Security.

In the Stafford Rural District in 1968 the Live Birth Rate was 19.2 (adjusted—18.8) per 1,000 population and the Death Rate 7.4 (adjusted—9.5), compared with respective figures of 16.9 and 11.9 for England and Wales. There were 429 live births in the Rural District in 1968 (216 M., 213 F.) and the total number of deaths was 166, live births thus exceeding total deaths by 263. Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 3, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 7.0 per 1,000 live births compared with 18.0 for England and Wales (the latter being the lowest annual rate ever recorded for England and Wales).

9 cases of Measles were notified in the Rural District in 1968, compared with 8 in 1967. There were 4 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 cases of Whooping Cough, and 5 cases of Dysentery,

compared with respective figures of 4, 2 and nil for 1967. No cases of Poliomyelitis were recorded. No cases of Diphtheria were notified. Malignant Neoplasms caused the deaths of 36 persons (18 M., 18 F.) in the district during the year, including 6 deaths (5 M., 1 F.) registered as being due to Carcinoma of the Lung and Bronchus. Deaths from Carcinoma of the Lung and Bronchus in England and Wales rose from 999 to 1,011 per million population in men and from 189 to 197 per million population in women over the 1967 figures (total deaths from this cause 23,896 males, 4,930 females). Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales in 1968 numbered 1,458 compared with 1,797 in 1967. No deaths from Tuberculosis occurred in the Stafford R.D. in 1968.

The mid-1968 population of the Stafford Rural District was estimated at 22,370 by the Registrar-General (21,380 in mid-1967). This was the highest population ever estimated for the district. The estimated distribution of this population among the 26 parishes of the Rural District is shown in the body of the report.

Health statistics in the Stafford Rural District in 1968 were satisfactory.

In the body of the report the Chief Public Health Inspector deals comprehensively with the work of the Public Health Inspectorate during 1968.

There are 7,330 dwellings in the Rural District.

Sixty dwellings were completed by the Council in 1968, and 478 dwellings were erected by private enterprise. During the year much good work was done as regards slum clearance and repair and improvement of dwellings by discretionary and standard grants; details of this work appear in the body of the report. A total of 136 caravans are authorised in the district.

I thank the staff of the Public Health Department for much help in the preparation of this report. Thanks are also expressed to the members of the Council for their help and interest in the work of the Department. During the year the other departments of the Council have given the fullest co-operation. I have to thank Dr. A. V. Campbell, who has acted for me during holiday periods.

A. THOMSON,
(Medical Officer of Health).

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1968

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR R. J. FAIRBANKS.

Vice-chairman:

COUNCILLOR MISS G. JOULES, C.C.

Members:

Councillor	T. W. Brayne	Councillor	C. C. Holme
,,	V. R. Brown	,,	F. R. Johnson
,,	R. H. Cartmail	,,	C. L. Jones
,,	W. H. Clarke	,,	A. T. Lea
,,	E. R. Cope	,,	S. W. K. Marshall
,,	H. Coulson	,,	C. S. Whiteley

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health:

A. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

G. M. LAWTON, F.R.S.H., M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I

Cert. Food Inspector

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

W. E. JEVONS, M.A.P.H.I.

Cert. Food Inspector

Additional Public Health Inspector:

P. B. TAYLOR, M.A.P.H.I.

Cert. Food Inspector

Clerk:

MRS. I. E. WOODHOUSE

General Statistics, Social Conditions and Health Services in the Area

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	80,104
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	7,330
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£760,094
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£3,129
Yearly Rate levied in 1968	...	...	...	...	...	11/4
Mid-1968 Population (as estimated by the Registrar-General): Total Population	...	...	...	...	...	22,370

During 1968 there was no change in the area of Stafford Rural District.

Industries

Many residents in the Area are normally mainly engaged in Agriculture, Dairy Farming and allied occupations, but a substantial number of persons resident in the Rural Area are employed in the County Town of Stafford, where the chief industries are Engineering and Boot and Shoe Manufacturing.

Laboratory Facilities, Ambulance Facilities, Nursing in the Home, Treatment Centres and Hospitals

Bacteriological facilities are made available to Medical Practitioners in the Area by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. The facilities include examination of Throat Swabs, Sputum Tests, Blood Tests, etc. Results of all examinations relevant to Public Health are made available to the appropriate Medical Officer of Health. The Director of the Stafford Laboratory was Dr. W. L. Hooper, whose helpful advice was available to the Medical Officer of Health when occasion demanded. Bacteriological examinations of samples of water are undertaken by the Laboratory Service.

Chemical Examinations of samples of water are carried out at the County Chemical Laboratory which is directed by Mr. R. S. Hatfull, M.Chem.A., F.R.I.C., F.R.S.H., the County Analyst. The results of such analyses are shown in the body of the Report.

Ambulance Services are provided by the County Council as Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Isolation hospitals for infectious diseases are the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board (Birmingham).

The County Council is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the Stafford R.D. Area. Child Welfare Centres are available at Gnosall, Great Haywood, Hixon and Walton, and the Health Visitors do excellent work in promoting the Welfare of young children in the district. Your Medical Officer of Health attends the Welfare Centres and Schools in the Area and is thus enabled to assess the health standards of the young life in the district.

There are five General Medical Practitioners resident in the Stafford R.D. and Practitioners from the neighbouring towns of Stafford, Rugeley, Newport, etc. also practise in the Area. The various parishes in the Stafford R.D. are well served by District Nurse/Midwives. Four Health Visitors work in the R.D.

The Staffordshire General Infirmary serves the general hospital needs of the district. The Birmingham Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the provision of Maternity Hospital facilities.

During the year the Council subscribed to the Health Education Council which represented the Ministry of Health in Health Education matters and use was made of Health Education leaflets, etc. relating to Infectious Diseases, Food Hygiene and so on.

Vital Statistics for the Year 1968

Total Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	166
Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.4
Live Births:							
Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	429
Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	19.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.8
Still Births:							
Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.3
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	437
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Infant Mortality Rates:

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births	...	7.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	... ..	7.5
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	... ..	—
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total Live Births)	... ..	4.7
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total Live Births)	... ..	4.7
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births)	... ..	22.9

Maternal Mortality (including abortion):

Number of Deaths	... ..	—
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	...	—

In the Stafford Rural District in 1968 the Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population was 19.2 compared with a rate of 16.9 for England and Wales. Comparability Factor 0.98 (adjusted Birth Rate 18.8). The ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate was 1.11.

Stafford R.D.
Live Birth Rate per
1,000 population

Year						
1968	...	...	...	...	...	19.2
1967	...	...	...	...	...	18.2
1966	...	...	...	...	...	18.4
1965	...	...	...	...	...	17.7
1964	...	...	...	...	...	18.9
1963	...	...	...	...	...	19.5
1962	...	...	...	...	...	20.0
1961	...	...	...	...	...	18.0
1960	...	...	...	...	...	17.6
1959	...	...	...	...	...	16.1
1958	...	...	...	...	...	14.9
1957	...	...	...	...	...	16.0
1956	...	...	...	...	...	15.0
1955	...	...	...	...	...	15.3

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population was 0.36 in 1968, compared with 0.23, 0.43, 0.2, 0.4 in 1967, 1966, 1965 and 1964 respectively.

During 1968, the Rate of Illegitimate to Legitimate Births was 1 to 14 compared with figures of 1 to 15, 1 to 28, 1 to 21, 1 to 17, 1 to 19 in 1967, 1966, 1965, 1964 and 1963 respectively.

There were 429 (389) Live Births in the Rural Area in 1968, 216 (203) boys and 213 (186) girls. The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for 1967, 29 of the Live Births in 1968 were illegitimate, giving an Illegitimacy Rate of 68 per 1,000 Live Births.

The area comparability factors for use with crude birth and death rates contain adjustments for boundary changes and make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. In addition, the death rate area comparability factors have been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in each area. When local crude birth and death rates are multiplied by the appropriate area comparability factor, they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

In the following table Comparative figures of Live and Still Births are shown for England and Wales:—

Year	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	
	Stafford R.D.	England and Wales	Stafford R.D.	England and Wales
1968	19.2	16.9	0.36	0.25
1967	18.2	17.2	0.23	0.26
1966	18.4	17.7	0.43	0.28
1965	17.7	18.0	0.20	0.29
1964	18.9	18.4	0.40	0.30
1963	19.5	18.1	0.15	0.32
1962	20.0	17.9	0.26	0.33
1961	18.0	17.5	0.59	0.33
1960	17.6	17.1	0.27	0.34
1959	16.1	16.4	0.32	0.35
1958	14.9	16.4	0.32	0.36
1957	16.0	16.1	0.47	0.37
1956	15.0	15.6	0.41	0.36
1955	15.3	15.0	0.36	0.35

There were 8 Still Births in the Rural Area (4 M., 4 F.) in 1968, all being legitimate. This represented a rate of 18.3 per 1,000 total Live and Still Births compared with a rate of 14.6 for England and Wales.

Deaths

In 1968 the Death Rate per 1,000 of the population was 7.4 compared with a rate of 11.9 for England and Wales. Comparability Factor, 1.28. (Stafford R.D. adjusted Death Rate 9.5). The ratio of the local adjusted death rate to the national rate was 0.80.

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 Population				
	Stafford R.D.		England & Wales		
1968	7.4	...	11.9
1967	6.3	...	11.2
1966	9.0	...	11.7
1965	7.7	...	11.5
1964	8.9	...	11.3
1963	8.8	...	12.2
1962	9.4	...	11.9
1961	8.7	...	11.9
1960	7.2	...	11.5
1959	7.5	...	11.6
1958	7.9	...	11.7
1957	7.7	...	11.5
1956	8.9	...	11.7
1955	8.4	...	11.7

In the Stafford Rural District in 1968, total deaths numbered 166, 95 males and 71 females. The excess of live births over total deaths was 263, compared with 254, 194, 202, 199, 210, 201, 173, 195 in 1967, 1966, 1965, 1964, 1963, 1962, 1961 and 1960 respectively.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age numbered 3, (2 M, 1 F.) all legitimate, giving a Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births of 7.0 compared with 18.0 for England and Wales. The figure for England and Wales was the lowest annual rate ever recorded.

At the turn of the century in England and Wales the Infant Mortality Rate was about 150 per 1,000 live births.

Infant Mortality Rate

Year	Death Rate of Children under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births			
	Stafford R.D.		England & Wales	
1968	7.0	18.0
1967	2.6	18.3
1966	15.8	19.0
1965	14.0	19.0
1964	29.2	19.9
1963	18.3	21.1
1962	26.3	21.7
1961	29.6	21.4
1960	27.3	21.8
1959	16.4	22.2
1958	14.1	22.5
1957	32.3	23.1
1956	41.4	23.8
1955	13.4	24.9

In England and Wales in 1968 live births registered during the year numbered 822,000, which was 10,000 fewer than in 1967. There were 15,000 deaths of children under one year of age in 1968, representing a rate of 18.0 per 1,000 live births. This was the lowest annual rate ever recorded in England and Wales. In 1938 the rate was 52.8.

The total number of deaths in 1968 was 577,000, representing a rate of 11.9 per 1,000 population, compared with rates of 11.2 in 1967 and 11.7 in 1966. Still births in 1968 numbered 12,000, a rate of 14.0 per 1,000 total live births. In the five years 1889-1893 in England and Wales the Live Birth Rate was 30.8 per 1,000 of the population and the Death Rate was 19.7. The home population of England and Wales at mid-1968 was 48,593,000.

STAFFORD R.D.—AGES AT DEATH, 1968												
<i>Sex</i>	<i>Total All Ages</i>	<i>Under 4 Weeks</i>	<i>4 Weeks and under 1 Year</i>	<i>Age in Years</i>								
				1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
Male ..	95	2	—	2	1	5	2	2	6	22	25	28
Female..	71	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	6	9	17	34
Totals ..	166	2	1	2	1	5	4	4	12	31	42	62
Per cent	100%	1.2	0.6	1.2	0.6	3.0	2.4	2.4	7.2	18.7	25.3	37.4

The proportion of children and elderly people in the population has become significantly modified since 1901. In that year children under 15 amounted to 32% of the total and persons of 65 years and over to 5%. In 1967 the proportions were respectively 23.2% and 12.5%

On the basis of the death rates for the year 1968, the expectation of life of a boy at birth is given as 68.1 years and that of a girl as 74.1 years. This compares with 67 and 72 in 1953, 48.53 and 52.38 in 1901-1910, and with 40 years and 42 years in 1841.

This does not imply that on the average people are living longer. The expectation of life at one year of age has remained practically stationary at 69 years for men and 74 years for women since 1954. More persons are reaching three-score years and ten but the proportion living much longer has not increased. In 1841 the increase in expectation of life after the first year was 7 years. In 1961 this had been reduced to one year, the difference being due entirely to the great reduction of infant mortality occurring in the interval.

By the end of the present century it is estimated that the population of England and Wales will have increased by 18 millions and the number of births will have risen to over one million per year.

Stafford R.D. Deaths, 1968: Causes

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	—	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasms: all sites	18	18	36
Diabetes	2	3	5
Vascular lesions of Nervous System ...	8	13	21
Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System	34	23	57
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Bronchitis and Emphysema	9	1	10
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	3	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System ...	1	—	1
Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation	1	—	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	2	7
All other Accidents	5	1	6
Suicide	—	1	1
Homicide	—	—	—
All other Causes	3	4	7
TOTALS	95	71	166

In the Stafford Rural District in 1968 3 (1.8%) of the total deaths (166) were under one year of age, 42 (25.3%) aged 65-74 years and 62 (37.4%) aged 75 and over.

Cancer Mortality

Malignant neoplasms caused 36 deaths in the rural area in 1968 (18 males, 18 females). This represented 21.7 per cent of the total deaths.

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus

In the Stafford Rural District in 1968, there were six deaths registered as being due to Carcinoma of the Lung or Bronchus — 5 male, 1 female. This represented 16.7 per cent of the total cancer deaths and 3.6% of the total deaths.

Provisional figures for 1968 for England and Wales relating to deaths from Carcinoma of the Lung and Bronchus show an increase from 999 to 1,011 per million population in men and from 189 to 197 for women, over the 1967 figures. 28,826 (23,896 M., 4,930 F.) persons died from this cause in 1968.

In the year 1900 the male death rate from Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus was 10 per million, female 7 per million. In 1940 these rates were 187 and 49, and 1958, 783 and 119.

Of the 112,543 deaths from all forms of Cancer in 1968, the proportion attributed to Cancer of the Lung was 25.6%. In 1967 and 1966 it was 25.7% and 25% respectively.

Cancer (all forms) accounted for 19.5% of the total deaths and Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus accounted for 5% of the total deaths in England and Wales in 1968. In the Stafford R.D. in 1968 Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus accounted for 3.6% of the total deaths, and Cancer all forms 21.7%

Male deaths from Cancer in England and Wales in 1968 totalled 61,033, of which 23,896 or 39.2% were certified as due to Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus. For women, out of 51,510 deaths from Cancer, only 4,930 or 9.6% were due to this cause.

Names of Parishes in Stafford Rural District showing number of houses (including farm houses), approximate population figures and Incidence of Infectious Diseases in each Parish in 1968

Name of Parish	Approximate Population	Number of Houses	Infectious Diseases Notified 1968										
			Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles (excl. Rubella)	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia	Dysentery	Enteric or Typhoid	Para- Typhoid	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Respiratory Tuberculosis
Adbaston ..	615	207	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Berkswich ..	1,978	653	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bradley	368	132	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brocton	1,017	338	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Castle Church ..	868	295	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Eaton ..	614	216	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colwich	3,093	998	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Creswell	1,134	396	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ellenhall	125	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forton	274	95	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Fradswell	168	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gayton	159	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gnosall	2,993	1,060	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haughton	738	278	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
High Offley ..	873	294	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hopton & Coton	1,816	352	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ingestre	123	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marston	224	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norbury	277	90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ranton	244	82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salt & Enson ..	460	144	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seighford	2,191	760	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stowe	1,124	384	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tixall	177	58	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weston	543	192	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitgreave ..	174	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	22370	7,330	4	—	9	3	—	5	—	—	—	—	—

No cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis occurred in the Stafford Rural District in 1968.

Infectious Diseases

The Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1968 compared with that of previous years is shown below in tabular form:

Disease	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Scarlet Fever ..	4	4	8	3	1	1	5	4	5	16	23	8
Whooping Cough ..	3	2	—	6	6	8	—	27	16	2	3	103
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Measles (excluding Rubella) ..	9	81	83	154	50	335	24	204	97	110	53	348
Primary Pneumonia	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	3	2	1	8	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	5	—	10	4	—	1	9	1	21	1	2	6
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Also notified in 1968:

1 case of Food Poisoning.

Statistics — Stafford Rural District

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
Population ..	22,370	21,380	20,700	20,170	19,990	19,580	19,030	18,750	18,800	18,850	19,040	19,350	19,340	19,510	19,460	19,790	19,430	19,700	18,440
No. of Inhabited Houses ..	7,330	6,911	6,690	6,360	6,122	5,974	5,771	5,650	5,383	5,303	5,025	4,940	4,914	4,836	4,742	4,650	4,446	4,361	4,308
Number of Live Births ..	429	389	380	358	377	382	380	337	330	304	284	310	290	299	304	284	283	300	281
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ..	19.2	18.2	18.4	17.7	18.9	19.5	20.0	18.0	17.6	16.1	14.9	16.0	15.0	15.3	15.6	14.4	14.6	15.2	15.2
Live Birth Rate England and Wales ..	16.9	17.2	17.7	18.1	18.4	18.1	17.9	17.5	17.1	16.4	16.4	16.1	15.6	15.0	15.2	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.8
Number of Deaths	166	135	186	156	178	172	179	164	135	142	150	149	173	163	152	137	170	184	175
Death Rate per 1,000 population	7.4	6.3	9.0	7.7	8.9	8.8	9.4	8.7	7.2	7.5	7.9	7.7	8.9	8.4	7.8	6.9	8.7	9.3	9.5
Death Rate—England and Wales ..	11.9	11.2	11.7	11.5	11.3	12.2	11.9	11.9	11.5	11.6	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.7	11.3	11.4	11.3	12.5	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births)	7.0	2.6	15.8	14.0	29.2	18.3	26.3	29.6	27.3	16.4	14.1	32.3	41.4	13.4	23.0	42.0	21.0	50.0	39.0
Infant Mortality Rate E. & W. ..	18.0	18.3	19.0	19.0	19.9	21.1	21.7	21.4	21.8	22.2	22.5	23.1	23.8	24.9	25.4	26.8	27.6	29.6	29.8
No. of Notified Cases of:— Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	4	4	8	3	1	1	5	4	5	16	23	8	28	6	19	38	59	27	32
Measles ..	9	81	83	154	50	335	24	204	97	110	53	348	10	468	8	326	47	126	314
Whooping Cough	3	2	—	6	6	8	—	27	16	2	3	103	16	6	23	74	46	201	5

Age — Incidence of Infectious Diseases, 1968

AGE- GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Diph- theria		Measles (exclud- ing Rubella)		Whoop- ing Cough		Primary Pneu- monia		Dys- entery		Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Para- Typhoid Fever		Ery- sipelas		Polio- myelitis		Res- piratory Tuber- culosis	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 years	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 years	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	1	—	—	4	5	—	3	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Infectious Diseases Notifications, 1968, showing Months of Occurrence
(1967 Figures in Brackets)

MONTH	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Measles (exclud- ing Rubella)	Whoop- ing Cough	Pneu- monia (Acute Primary)	Dysen- tery	Food Poison- ing	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Para- Typhoid Fever	Ery- sipelas	Poliomyelitis	
January	— (—)	— (—)	— (17)	— (—)	— (1)	2 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
February	1 (1)	— (—)	— (25)	3 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
March	— (—)	— (—)	— (13)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
April	— (—)	— (—)	— (5)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
May	— (—)	— (—)	— (12)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
June	— (—)	— (—)	— (3)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
July	1 (—)	— (—)	— (6)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
August	— (—)	— (—)	4 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
September	— (—)	— (—)	2 (—)	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
October	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
November	— (—)	— (—)	2 (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
December	2 (3)	— (—)	1 (—)	— (1)	— (—)	2 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
TOTALS	4 (4)	— (—)	9 (81)	3 (2)	— (2)	5 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

Diphtheria Immunisation

During 1968 facilities were available for the Diphtheria Immunisation of children at schools, welfare centres and by private practitioners. No cases of Diphtheria occurred in the Stafford Rural District in 1968, and during the year 451 children received protection by primary immunisation, while 463 were given reinforcing injections. In the period 1916-25 the annual average of Diphtheria notifications in England and Wales was 51,573 with an average of 4,214 deaths per year.

The Staffordshire County Council has introduced the Triple Antigen, giving protection against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, and Tetanus, and thus reducing the number of injections to which children are subjected. 518 children were immunised against Tetanus in 1968 and 390 had reinforcing injections.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

1968 figures for primary vaccination in the Rural Area were as follows:—

	Under 1	1-4	5-15	Total
Vaccination ...	133 (64)	43 (115)	— (21)	176 (200)

Re-Vaccinations—39 (81) children between 5 and 15 were re-vaccinated. (1967 figures in brackets).

It is recommended that primary vaccination should be done after a child has reached its first birthday.

VACCINATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

During 1968 335 children in Stafford Rural District were vaccinated against Whooping Cough.

In addition, 85 reinforcing injections were given.

In the Stafford Rural District in 1968 no deaths from Whooping Cough were recorded.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following extract from the Register was taken at the end of December, 1968 (1967 figures in brackets).

1968	Cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis			Cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis			Total of Respiratory and Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
End of December, 1968	17	11	28	3	4	7	35
	(17)	(11)	(28)	(6)	(2)	(8)	(36)

No deaths from Tuberculosis occurred in the Stafford Rural District in 1968. 1,458 persons (1,094 males, 364 females) died from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales in 1968.

POLIOMYELITIS

No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified in the Stafford Rural District in 1968 and facilities for protection by vaccination were available during the year. 420 persons had their third dose of Sabin Oral Vaccine and 488 had a "boosting" dose of the oral vaccine.

"Immunisation against Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, and Poliomyelitis is now part of the routine care of the young child's health. It is no longer the subject of spectacular campaigns with mass immunisation clinics. In consequence there is a tendency for the acceptance rates to drift almost imperceptibly downwards. It is vital that this should be prevented and that parents, family doctors and public health staffs should have a clearly understood programme and follow it in the interest of every child".

MEASLES VACCINATION

During 1968 vaccination against Measles was introduced. This involves one injection after the child has reached one year of age.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951

No action was taken under the provisions of these Acts during 1968.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Newport Road,
Stafford.
June, 1969.

**To the Chairman and Members of
the Stafford Rural District Council**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my report on public health department work during 1968.

Our duties have continued — as for many years — to embrace not only the usual public health department duties but other allied work including all improvement grant work and resultant costings, management of refuse collection and disposal, shops hours of closing, licensing and control of petroleum spirit stores and meat inspection of an exacting nature.

The work of housing also continues justifiably to demand much attention, and it is satisfying to record that within a few days of the year's end we completed our survey of dwellings remaining after our completed slum clearance programme. The results of the survey have been given in a separate special publicised report and show an immense improvement in the housing conditions in the area since the last comprehensive survey — completed in 1950 — as the broad summary below shows:

				1950	1968
No. of Dwellings	...	...	...	4277	7330
Fit Dwellings	...	...	...	2132*	6390
Unfit but Repairable	...	...	...	1669	876
Requiring Demolition	...	...	...	476	64†

*Many of these by present standards were unfit.

†Action taken

				1950	1968
No. of Dwellings	...	...	...	4277	7330
On Well Water	...	...	...	1691	147
Dwellings Not on Sewer	...	...	...	3255	2434
Without W.C.	...	...	...	2450	595
Without Bathroom	...	...	...	2168	671

There can be but few local authorities faced by a slum clearance problem after the war that can show so much achievement per 1000 population and that have produced a "register" with details of all properties still to be made fit. With the new provisions for improvement grants expected any day, it is planned to intensify our efforts in the remedy of the remaining unfit dwellings. The work **outstanding** is little more than that achieved by the department in recent years in the field of improvements and repairs.

I express my sincere appreciation of the support and work of the staff generally and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and co-operation.

G. M. LAWTON,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORATE — SUMMARY OF VISITS

Inspection of Dwelling Houses	...	...	2,300
These Inspections were for the following purposes:—			
(a) Slum Clearance	...	...	145
(b) Inspection of Houses for repairs and for Improvement Grants	...	...	1,934
(c) Inspections of Caravans and Sites	...	...	168
(d) Overcrowding and Housing Applications	...	...	45
(e) Verminous and Dirty Dwellings	...	...	8
			<hr/> 2,300
Inspection of Premises for and re Nuisances	...	...	247
Drainage Inspections	...	...	120
Visits re Food Supply:			
Meat	...	...	379
Poultry	...	...	37
Ice Cream	...	...	4
Other Foods	...	...	36
Cafes	...	...	5
Dairies	...	...	3
Infectious Diseases	...	...	270
Visits re Water Supply	...	...	27
Refuse Tips — Supervision	...	...	232
Refuse Collection	...	...	159
Factories (including Bakehouses)	...	...	10
Slaughterhouses (other than Meat Inspection)	...	...	14
Offensive Trades Premises	...	...	119
Petroleum Stores	...	...	64
Keeping of Animals	...	...	6
Shops and Offices	...	...	11
Accumulation of Refuse	...	...	18
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	14
Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare) Act, 1956	...	...	30
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	110
			<hr/> 4,215

NOTICES SERVED DURING YEAR:

Informal Notices under Housing and Public Health Acts	57
Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act, 1936	1
(In addition 286 informal letters requesting house improvements were sent).	

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH
DURING THE YEAR:

Total number received	...	...	...	...	...	76
As to Repairs to Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	12
Others	...	...	...	...	...	64

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE

The Stafford Corporation Water Undertaking became responsible for the water supply throughout the Rural District as from 1st October, 1960. The public main supplies are solely from boreholes at Gnosall (The Hollies), and wells and boreholes at Milford. Both these supplies are chlorinated. The results of samples of these and the only private mains supply of extent (i.e. Messrs. Cadbury's, Knighton) taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year by this department read "Coliform bacilli—Nil" and "Bact. Coli (type 1)—Nil".

Only a negligible number of dwellings were served only by stand pipes and these were subject to demolition orders.

During the year a Sewerage Scheme for Seighford, prepared by the Engineer's Department, was approved by the Ministry and work has recently commenced. Approvals were also received from the Ministry for a new sewage works at Gnosall and improved sewerage at Gnosall and Church Eaton and for improvements to Hixon Sewage Works.

The table following gives parish information, requested by Ministry Circular 1/69, of water supplies and as to sewerage and other such facilities.

PARISH	Total Dwell-ings	Dwellings on: Mains Water	Bore hole	Well etc.	Sewer	Septic Tank etc.	*With W.C.	*Bath-room
ADBASTON	207	194	6	7	66	141	181(26)	184(23)
BERKSWICH	653	653	—	—	618	35	646(7)	628(25)
BRADLEY	132	119	4	9	62	70	116(16)	114(18)
BROCTON	338	327	5	6	303	35	334(4)	328(10)
CAS CHURCH	295	293	—	2	239	56	278(17)	274(21)
CH. EATON	216	207	2	7	120	96	174(42)	180(36)
COLWICH	998	989	4	5	848	150	945(53)	923(75)
CRESWELL	396	396	—	—	383	13	395(1)	394(2)
ELLENHALL	47	44	—	3	—	47	38(9)	38(9)
FORTON	95	82	1	12	24	71	68(27)	70(25)
FRADSWELL	55	45	3	7	10	45	38(17)	39(16)
GAYTON	54	49	—	5	—	54	38(16)	37(17)
GNOSALL	1060	1050	2	8	713	347	980(80)	951(109)
HAUGHTON	278	254	2	22	131	147	244(34)	247(31)
H. OFFLEY	294	290	2	2	193	101	266(28)	255(39)
HOPTON	352	352	—	—	221	131	340(12)	340(12)
INGESTRE	48	48	—	—	—	48	48(—)	46(2)
MARSTON	48	43	—	5	—	48	35(13)	41(7)
NORBURY	90	84	6	—	28	62	76(14)	75(15)
RANTON	82	77	—	5	3	79	69(13)	73(9)
SALT	144	132	—	12	43	101	109(35)	111(33)
SEIGHFORD	760	744	2	14	516	244	723(37)	723(37)
STOWE	384	374	3	7	219	165	330(54)	330(54)
TIXALL	58	55	1	2	—	58	54(4)	51(7)
WESTON	192	185	—	7	156	36	169(23)	162(30)
WHITGREAVE	54	54	—	—	—	54	41(13)	45(9)
TOTALS:	7330	7140	43	147	4896	2434	6735(595)	6659(671)

*Figures in parentheses denote number of dwellings lacking W.C. and bathroom

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

The collection of house refuse was carried out by direct labour from the whole of the Council's district. Five modern type low-loading Shelvoke and Drewry diesel refuse collection vehicles were employed on this work, three being of 25 cu. yd. body purchased in 1964, 1962 and 1960 and two of 35 cu. yd. body purchased in 1968 and 1967.

Some 7,500 premises received the service and approximately 2,500 of these were serviced at approximately one-and-a-half week intervals and 5,000 at near-weekly intervals. It is contended that the provision of a satisfactory and regular refuse collection service to a district so vast as this — about 30 miles across — is no mean achievement. About 6,000 tons of refuse were collected during the year. Sixteen men were engaged in this work in addition to the foreman.

All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping with the aid of a mechanical shovel at the council-owned disused railway cutting at Hopton, near Stafford, at which we were from September, 1968 and are still also receiving and dealing with about 25 loads of untreated refuse per month from Stafford Borough.

Costs.—A statement as to the cost of refuse collection and disposal during the financial year ended 31st March, 1969, is given below:—

Refuse Collection—						£	£
Labour	...	...	...	...	...		14,339
Vehicles—							
Repairs and Maintenance	...	...	...	...	...	1,265	
Tax and Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	1,242	
Fuel and Oil	...	...	...	...	...	1,461	
Debt Redemption and Interest on	...	...	...	...	...
two vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	1,449	
							5,417
Equipment, etc.	...	...	...	...	...		113
Administration	...	...	...	...	...		875
							20,744
Less Recoveries from special collec-							
tions, etc.							288
							£20,456
Refuse Disposal—						£	£
Labour, etc.	...	...	...	...	...		522
Tractor—							
Repairs and Maintenance	...	...	...	...	...	340	
Tax and Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	41	
Fuel and Oil	...	...	...	...	...	80	
Debt Redemption and Interest	...	...	...	...	...	179	
							640
Tip — Debt Redemption and Interest	...	...	...	...	...		162
Other Expenses	...	...	...	...	...		130
							1,454
Less Income from Use of Tip							196
							£1,258

Salvage Collection.—Due to the decreased value of salvage, none was collected separately.

HOUSING

Condition, etc. of Dwellings:—

Total number of Houses in Rural District	7,330
Fit houses	6,390
Unfit but Repairable Houses	876
Houses requiring Demolition	64*
Houses erected before 1950	3,452
Houses erected after 1950	3,878
Houses privately let	1,998
Houses owner-occupied	4,434
Council Houses	898

*Slum Clearance Action has already been taken.

New Houses erected or provided during 1968:—

(a) by Local Authority (15 at Haughton, 45 at Gnosall)	60
(b) by Private Enterprise ...	478

HOUSING—REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT

Apart from much general work in improving existing housing conditions and in re-housing, the Re-Survey of all dwellings in the district with a view to repair and improvement of all dwellings, at the same time bringing all information up to date as regards housing conditions in the area, was completed. A comprehensive report has been circulated giving extensive information on both public health and social aspects of housing in the rural district and separately for each parish.

In the course of the Survey owners have been notified of repairs and improvements required and of improvement grants and such facilities available. All necessary records have been kept and will be immediately available for such new and additional procedure as will be required by the new Housing Act for the improvement and repair of dwellings.

Improvement Grants

During the year 8 Discretionary Grants and 25 Standard Grants were approved and many other applications considered and advised upon. The table following shows the number and types of dwellings benefiting from the Council's improvement grants at 31st May, 1969:—

	No. of Grants approved	Total Value of Grants
Discretionary Grants:		
Farm Cottages let	188	£136,496
Other dwellings let	125	
Owner-occupiers	175	
Standard Grants:		
Farm Cottages let	32	£33,105
Other dwellings let	69	approx., i.e.
Owner-occupiers	131	max. payable
Totals	720	£169,601

The Housing Act, 1964, allows local authorities to increase the maximum standard grants to specified limits with respect to provision of bathrooms and W.C.'s in certain circumstances. In 55 of the above cases the maximum was so increased.

HOUSING—SLUM CLEARANCE

A list of the 503 dwellings previously dealt with was contained in previous Annual Reports. Seven further dwellings were dealt with in 1968 as follows:—

Ref. No.	Address	Action Taken
469	Coachman's Cottage, Bishops Offley.	Undertaking to Repair (complied)
486/491	The Yard, Salt.	Demolition and closing orders (all demolished)

Certificates of Disrepair—Rent Act, 1957

During 1968 there were no applications for Certificates of Disrepair. Since the Rent Act, 1957, only fourteen applications have been made for Certificates of Disrepair. In six of these cases it was ultimately necessary to serve Certificates.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

There are 51 factories—all defined as “Mechanical Factories” — in the area. Six of these were inspected during the year, no defects of any consequence were found, and only six of the factories are of any size.

No outworkers were employed in the district of the Council during the year.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Ninety-four licences to store petroleum spirit were issued for the period ended 31st December, 1968. A number of new installations were carried out during the year, the majority of which were to increase the storage capacity of existing installations. All such installations were inspected at each stage of construction and all tanks and pipe lines were tested prior to licensing of the installations in order to secure compliance with the Petroleum Acts and in accordance with the Home Office Codes of Practice.

In addition to the above, all retail filling stations were inspected in detail in conjunction with the Fire Prevention Department of the County Fire Brigade.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council provided a free service of rat disinfestation to residential property. The treatment of farms and other properties in the area is also carried out by the Council's rodent operative, the cost being re-charged to the occupiers.

Infestations which were treated by the department during 1968 were:—

Farms	...	...	...	...	...	35
R.D.C. Refuse Tips and Sewage Works						44
All other properties	...	...	...			316

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Premises registered at 1968 were:—

	No. Registered	No. Persons Employed
Offices	9	20
Shops	22	60
Catering Establishments and Canteens	15	101
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	4	9
	50	190 (86 Males; 104 Females)

The above figures relate to registerable premises only, there being a total of some 180 shops in the district.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, planning permission and site licences have been granted for the following sites (all are subject to conditions requiring such sanitary facilities as can be enforced by present legislation):—

Sites of One Caravan	...	19 site licences
Sites of Two Caravans	...	2 site licences
Sites of Three Caravans	...	4 site licences
Sites of Four Caravans	...	2 site licences
Sites of Five Caravans	...	3 site licences
Site of Seven Caravans	...	1 site licence
Site of Twelve Caravans	...	1 site licence
Site of Fifteen Caravans	...	1 site licence
Site of Twenty Caravans	...	1 site licence
Site of Twenty-four Caravans	.	1 site licence

Thus a total of 136 caravans were authorised in the rural area under the Act (the majority of these being in the Hopton area).

FOOD INSPECTION

Particulars of food inspected during the year:

Meat—Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ...	536	1,024	5,808	921	54
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned ...	8	19	60	12	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	187	447	14	108	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	36.4	45.6	1.3	13.1	5.5
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	7	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.7	0.7	—	—	—
Cysticercosis:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	8	—	—	—

Many of the above cattle were killed and examined at a Casualty Slaughterhouse in the area, which is the reason for the high percentage of meat condemned. Much of the work of meat inspection was perforce carried out outside normal office hours.

Weight of Meat condemned due to:—

(a) Tuberculosis	355 lbs.
(b) Other Diseases or conditions	26,452 lbs.

Total Weight of Meat Condemned	26,807 lbs.
--------------------------------	-------------

Two private slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard were licensed by the Council during the year. Ten men were licensed to stun and slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

Poultry Inspection

There were four poultry processing establishments in the Rural District working throughout the year at an average total rate of approximately 800 birds per week, plus a fifth processing three to four thousand turkeys immediately prior to Xmas.

Regular visits were made to these to ascertain condition of premises and fitness of food produced, although in the main it was found that the workers in these establishments were sufficiently experienced to reject unfit carcasses amounting to approximately 20-30 birds per week.

In addition it is estimated that some 150 farms and small-holdings process and retail poultry to a small extent, some of which increase their trade at Christmas when they are inspected subject to our knowing of their existence.

Food Preparing Premises and Food Shops

Food premises of the various types in the area were as under:—

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	10
Catering Establishments			...	...	...	5
Fruit and Vegetables	...		...	...	...	4
Sweets and Confectioners			...	...	...	8
General Provisions	...		...	...	...	57
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	48
						<hr/> 132 <hr/>

Routine inspections of food premises for the specific purpose of ensuring compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960, were carried out. Byelaws as to handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air, are in operation in the area of the Council.

There were four premises in the area manufacturing prepared meats. They—together with 70 shops from which ice cream is sold—are registered by the Council in conformity with the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. There were eight distributors of milk, with dairies in the Rural District, registered under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

A. THOMSON,
Medical Officer of Health.
G. M. LAWTON,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

